THE ASHANTEE WAR.

Letter from the Special Herald Correspondent at Cape Coast Castle.

FANTEES AND ASHANTEES.

Full Description of the King, His Army, People and Customs.

BRITISH FAULTS AND FOLLIES.

History of the Different Colonies on the Gold Coast.

THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS.

CAPE COAST CASTLE, GOLD COAST, WEST AFRICA, NOV. 24, 1873. f promised you in my last to give you some in formation about the allies of the British in this Anglo-Ashantee-war—the Fantees.

Next to my surprise at the unaccountable apathy of the English on the West Coast of Africa is my surprise that the English should have adopted for allies the Fantees, the miserable and worthiess tribe occupying the country lying between Cape Coast Castle and the boundary river flowing be-tween Ashantee and the Fantee Land. It may be said-with justice-by the English, that they could not help themselves; that they found the Fantees in possession of the country and of Cape Coast elf, and that they had no right to displace the Fantees for the Ashantees or any other people; that such a course on their part would have been the

grossest injustice. It is true the English could not have done this arbitrary act without incurring great guilt. But after the cession of Elmina to them by the Dutch good policy would have indicated what course they should adopt towards furthering the wishes of the opulent and commerce-loving Ashantees.

is the only place suitable for the residence of an ministrator-in-Chief or Governor on the whole shore of the Gold Coast from Assince River to the It is centrally located: nature has furshed it with a river which might be made a capital harbor for small craft; there is a d anchorage outside for the larger craft. The Dutch have furnished it with two castles, infinitely superior to the miserable castles or forts at Cape ast. Elmina was a large, thriving town, in a healthy situation, exposed to the pure sea breezes; the country around was well cultivated; numerous plantations studded the eminences behind the town; plenty reigned everywhere; and though ina natives were formerly a branch of the Fantee nation, they were far more industrious, and were able to supply the necessities of life to the garrison at one-fourth the cost those around Cape Coast Castle could afford. In every way Elmina was

A DESIRABLE LOCALITY for the principal station of the Gold Coast; and had the English at once transferred their offices of administratorship hither they would not have been under the deplorable necessity of reducing to dust heaps the native quarter 18 months after the

Dutch, and aware of the anxiety of the Ashantees to possess a small portion of coast line which should be theirs and none other, the English out of their abundance might have set apart a strip of 10 miles immediately adjoining Elmina, and proffered it to the Ashantees, and they might have even gone so far as to assist the Ashantees in the struction of a road from Prahsu to the new Ashantee settlement, thus proving to them that with them as the Dutch had been. The fear that the Ashantees would soon have made themselves masters of the country need not have deterred the Reglish, for the coast line would always remain in their power, and always within reach of the guns of their Airican naval squadrons. Elmina and Cape Coast also would ever be protected by the guns of the castles and the forts, so that such a policy as the one indicated above might have been prosecuted to a very desirable end-viz., that of populating an uninhabited portion of the coast with a portion of an opulent tribe desirous of opening direct commerce with the English, and curing the friendly alliance of a nation which, in a commercial sense, was worthy of being allied

The traveller, after observing

THE TREMENDOUS ENERGY OF THE ENGLISH. in other lands, and the keen intelligence which always directs their policies, finds nimself compelled to condemn the extraordinary apathy which charand the unwisdom of their mode of government From Sierra Leone down to Accra ruin and decay, neglect and apathy are visible in every settlement. Thirty years ago Sierra Leone was a thriving and presperous commercial mart. A forest of masts reared their tall heads in the unrivalled harbor, the soul of business seemed to animate her streets. the natives appeared to possess some idea that they were made to work and that their limbs were formed for labor. Now, however, an occasional steamer may be seen in harbor, homeward or outward bound, and the natives are utterly spoiled for work and seem to think that celestial state has already arrived when humanity ceases from toll and betakes itself to perpetual psalm-singing and hallelujah-chanting. Apollonia, Dix Cove. Chamah and Elmina are beaps of ruins. The Dutch left them prosperous and happy; the English took it upon the to govern them, and within 18 months rnined them, laving the settlements in mortar and dust

THE PANTERS

have not found out that their alliance with the English has been a curse instead of a blessing, because they have not yet been taught the art of deduction. But should they ever be schooled to ogic I have no doubt but they will say: -"If we had not been friends with the English the Ashantees would not have burned our villages or consumed our produce or laid waste our plantations." To which the English may perhaps answer:-"We went to war with the Ashantees for your sakes; if we had not been fools we would not have rejected the Ashantees and accepted such iserable cowards as you have turned out to be

I have already informed you that the Fantees cupy the country between Cape Coast Castle and the Prah, though in reality the Fantees proper neighborhood. Those of the Fantees who dwell in the villages of the interior are distinguished after the names of their villages. The whole of the Pantee territory may be about 2,000 square miles. It is not a kingdom. Fantee Land is more of a reblic of villages, whose chiefs are banded together for military protection against the common enemy—the Ashantees. Cape Coast has its king, or chief. Annamaboe has another, though it is but seven miles distant. Dunquah. 16 miles distant, has another chief, and Abra Campa has its chief. When any chief has a grievance against any other, the British Governor of the Castle is called upon to arbitrate, and his word is supposed

so settle the palaver. Confining my remarks, however, to the Fantees of Cape Coast, and taking it for granted that the es of the interior are no better, I must say that the town presents the strongest evidence that could possibly be produced of the apathy of the English on the West Coast of Airica. Two hundred and five years has this town been in pos-

f tion of 20,000 souls I doubt whether there are 1,000 of them who understand English. The people are as barbarous, untutored and superstitious as though they had never seen an Englishman's face. They are as wild in appearance, as naked in body, as fifthy in their habits as any tribe of savages I have ever seen. Their

and medicine heaps, and Mumbo Jumbo rites are visible in the streets of Cape Coast. The b'zarre lantastics in which women caper about nude, and ancient hags disagreeably remind you of the tonyness of the human body in old age, and little, conscienceless children prank and hop, involved inextricably between the pedal extremities of their grandmothers, form a picture of the most horrible degravity, and one utterly unsuited, I should say, at least, for any portion of the British

colonies.

If I have to echo the opinions of all white men who have come out lately to join this expedition, and declare that these people are the most indolent, toil-hating tribe it has ever been my lot to see, I am bound also to say that the administrators, the administrators-in-chief, the governors and subgovernors sent out to rule them must have been selected by the British government for those very qualities which we are all so ready to condemn

in the Fantees of Cape Coast Castle.

Consider the thing 205 years in possession. Why, Prussia was made a kingdom only 172 years ago. The battle of the Boyne was fought only 183 years ago. Just think, then, how many things have transpired during the 205 years since first John Bull laid his paw on this spot in the Gold Coast, and yet the Fantees, the population of this governmental station, have to be described as the most shiftless and indolent of the negro race.

BRITISH FOLLY.

Apart from the crime of having behaved so feedly during their stewardship over these be-nighted and utterly lost creatures, I must charge the British with their usual fault of raising the cost of labor and necessaries of life to about 20 times what it ought to be. Englishmen are as much sufferers as I am myself. They suffered as much from the same folly as I did in Abyssinia. When we might have obtained fowls at the rate of 12 for \$1 in Abyssinia, Sir William Merewether commanded three fowls only should be given for \$1. There has been as yet, to my knowledge, no order from Sir Garnet respecting number of fowls to be given for but I do expect some such order will be issued soon, as proclamations are being issued almost daily. In the meantime, however, the prices of everything have risen, until I should much prefer to pay the high prices of living at the Fifth Avenue Hotel rather than at a miserable Fantee hut.

Two chickens cost \$1 here and mutton is not purchasable under 25 cents per pound. Much of anything else cannot be had for love or money, except rice, which sells at 16 pounds for \$1. The household expenses are enormously high. First, your hammock-bearers cost you at the rate of \$45 per month: your porters, who are to carry your effects and provisions to the "bush," cost you as much more; your house rent costs you \$20 and your cook \$18 per month, so that if one finds his bills at the end of a month to be under \$200 one must consider himself specially fortunate.

I did not intend that my remarks about the Fantees should be abusive of them when I began this letter, so that I think I had better bottle up my indignation for the present.

I have already remarked that the Fantees are very superstitious. Their fetish consists of a wooden image of an armless and legless man, which is placed upright by the side of some public street, and at its back is generally found a medicine heap, covered over with either a turtle's back or a huge stone. If the fetish is not formed of wood, a figure of clay or a padded, doll-shaped thing, answers just as well. This image, made of wood or clay or old rags, is endowed by the fetish priest with extraordinary powers. A white man, educated at a university in all the secrets of medicine and surgery, is not gifted with one-half the powers commonly ascribed to and commonly believed to be possessed by this miserable idol. The fetish man carries the image to the bedside of a fever-stricken patient, mumbles formulas into the ear of the sick one. waves the fetish over his head, and departs satis fied that a cure has begun already. But should the British surgeon come up in time to arrest the progress of the disease and effect a cure, THE PETISH MAN

curses the surgeon for making his fetish to lie, be-lieving that the failure of the image was caused by the underhanded and false machinations of the

If I were to describe all the ceremonies which I have noted under my veranda I should fill your columns; but there is one which I have seen which causes intense disgust to the colored missionaries of the town. It is the exhibition of a virgin arriving at years of puberty to the rude gaze of the ties interfered the scene was really disgusting and downright savage; but at present, though it is a singular one, the immodesty of it is veiled somewhat. The young girl, in former times, was ac-customed to be stripped naked and obliged to march thus through the streets, loaded with gold and silver ornaments. The wealth of the family was sometimes seen on her person, amounting in value to several hundred dollars' worth, while ner friends and relatives, her playmates and acquaintances, followed her with all the fanfaronade which delights the ears of savages. Several kinkassis, or drums, were beaten in the most energetic manner; files were blown, and the vocal noises, inharmonious at the best of times, were absolutely deafening. She was thus paraded around the town until every household had enjoyed the ineffable felicity of seeing the virginai maid, when, at dusk, she was conducted to the bridal bed of her husband, who had probably paid dowry for her to her parents to the amount of \$40 or \$50. The earlier hours of hymeneal joy were honored with an increase of din, at which all the friends and relatives participated, and a orgy concluded mony. In these modest times, however, the maid is not permitted to expose her person, but is shown about properly clothed and bejewelled, and since the absence of the Fantee males in the "bush" the noise and din of the lestivity is not so

unbearable and soul-distracting as formerly. Lest my letter may be intolerably long-dull as I know it to be from lack of war news-! propose to give you a few remarks concerning

THE ASHANTEES. To begin with the King, then. The present chief or King of Ashantee is called Koffl, or Coffee Kalcall, the son of Coffee Tutee, an Ashantee noble of great power, by Princess Effnah Cobee, of the blood royal. He was born about the year 1837, and is, therefore, at present in his thirty-six th year. He ascended the throne of the kings on the 26th August, 1867, as the eighth monarch since the became a nation, which occurred about the year

To attempt to trace the past history of any savage Airican nation which has no written record for its basis would appear too much like romand ing; but such facts as the sages and courtiers and elders could store in their minds and transmit from father to son we have been able to obtain. No doubt a further acquaintance with the Ashantee chiefs would enable us to add still more to our resume; but what we have at present suffices for the ordinary reader, whose desire would be mainly to have an idea of what the Ashantees are and whence they came.

The special correspondent in a peculiar land like this feels a melancholy pleasure in being able to glean somewhat from the past of this now powerful nation, and transfer some portion of its history to the columns of a journal like the HERALD, ere the traditions which now inspire the elders at sun-set, under the patriarchal trees of their villages, to recite the glories of the great founder of the nation, and the deeds of the heroes and conquerors who succeeded him, should pale and fade and become lost in oblivion.

If any of your readers, after coming to this land, should become interested in any tribe or nation and attempt to write its history he would soon and how difficult a task it would be to distinguish on of the British, and yet out of its popula- | fact from fiction, and be able to understand the

D'Ambuja, Vasco da Gama and other heroic navigators, who flourished about the latter part of the fifteenth century, the Ashantee nation was not

known. If it were a concrete people, organized under a despotic king, as renowned in war as the Ashantee nation is to-day, there is no doubt that me of the enterprising portuguese explorers and writers, especially De Barros and Cada Mosto,

would have heard something about its existence and noted it in their journals with the same exactness and accuracy with which they penned their notes of other kings and nations whom they came in contact with or of whom they heard report; for while, looking eagerly over their quaintly written journals of discoveries along the coast of Guinea we are struck at the ease with which the steps of the Portuguese navigators may traced to-day. It is true that many names of tribes and rivers have become lost, but the major number are still to be recognized.

Instance these as proof of what I say. Cada Mosto writes in 1469 of the success of Fernando Gomez in his trading for gold dust at the port of Mina, which we at once recognize to be Elmina of the present day, where, during peaceful times, the same trade in the precious metal is still carried on. Again, he says that the first exchange in gold dust occurred at a village called Samma, a few miles further up from Mina, which we know to be the place called Chamah, where Commodore Counnerell and his boat fleet received such a check lately. It may not appear singular that Mina, now called Elmina, should have retained its name, since it has been in the possession of a European Power ever since; but it is singular that a small village like Chamah should have retained its native name in a country like Guinea, where everything is so mutable and where changes transpire so quickly, and nations and tribes, once prominent in local traditions, so sink into oblivion or are so soon swallowed by others more powerful.

My opinion is that the Ashantees at the time o which I write were divided into small village clans or sub-tribes acknowledging no ruler save their local chiefs, or elders; that wars for supremacy and right of way to the coast were frequent among them; that defeat of one village served to add power and subjects to the conquering sub-tribe, which, probably, in the course of time was augmented by other victories over weaker neighbors There is

A TRADITION

among the Fantees that in former times very far back the Fantees and Ashantees composed one tribe; but that while engaged on a war expedition into a distant region they suffered severely from hunger; that one portion sustained itself by feeding on a shrub or plant called Fan, while another portion found suste-nance in a shrub called Shan, from which the eaters of Fan became known afterwards as Fantees, while the others in like manner became known as Shantees, to which imperfect hearing has added the prefix A, so that the tribe is now called Ashantees by the English. This is, of course. lable, but only a more thorough knowledge of the roots of the language would enable us to decide whether the fable is correct.

We know, however, to a certainty, by the records of the Portuguese navigators, that gold dust in considerable quantities was brought down from the interior to Elmina by peoples who were not distinguished under any distinctive title during the latter half of the fifteenth century, and we know through official records by the Dutch Governors, who succeeded the Portuguese at Elmina, that the same trade was carried on between Elmina and the interior during the whole of the sixteenth century.

But at the beginning of the seventeenth century there struggles slowly into the minds of the European authorities on the Guinea or Gold Coast knowledge of the existence of a nation growing in opulence and power where the gold dust comes from, called the Ashantees, and of a Chief or King who governs them whose name strikes terror into the hearts of the sub-tribes on the coast, who were accustomed to convey palm-oil and cloths into the interior to exchange for gold dust. This King's name was Sy Tutu. During his lifetime the subtribes, the clans, villages and towns throughout a great extent of country were consolidated into one kingdom, with Sy Tutu, the conquering chief. as a sovereign. In the attempt to extend his power on this side of the Prah River, in the territory of the Akims, at the great battle of Coromantee, fought on a Saturday, the conqueror, Sy Tutu, was slain.

As in more civilized countries, A GLORIOUS ERA OF CONQUEST

and power was not forgotten by the nation he had founded and made great by a series of victories, and the memory of Sy Tutu is kept green to this day by the Ashantees. The most binding oath plans campaigns and wars, and whispers military known to-day among this people is the one which is advice into the ears of t made by "Coromantee Saturday." The present ceed on active service. Le will either drive the British from Elmina, or he will make a prolonged and bloody war.

It was natural that, after a glorious reign such as Sy Tutu's, his successor should be his son, and accordingly the throne devolved upon Apuku, his eldest son, who during his reign maintained the supremacy of the Ashantees, conquered the Akim territory and added it to Ashantee. It is said that Apuku, like the Plantagenet, John, desirous of curtailing the power of the sub-chiefs exasperated the chieftains and caused them to band to gether and drive the monarch from Coomassie, the totype, he was enabled to rally to his standard as army of warriors who had probably shared in his father's conquests, with whose aid he retook Coomassie and subdued the fractious and turbulent

Apuku died and was succeeded by his son Akwassi. This King, after extending his power toward Denkera, in the West, turned his attention to a powerful country on the east called Dahomey. The fact that Dahomey is still independent, and is understood to be as powerful as Ashantee, proves that Akwassi obtained little or no success in his wars against the Dahomans.

Akwassi, dying about the year 1752, was succeded by his son, Sy Kudju, a warlike prince, whose memory is venerated for the numerous successes which attended his arms throughout a long and prosperous reign.

Sy Kwamina, the fifth monarch since the dynasty was established, succeeded Kudju; but he was shortly dethroned by the chiefs and was replaced by a younger brother, Sy Tutu Kwamina, about the

It was during the reign of this prince that the British became personally acquainted with

THE PROWESS OF THE ASHANTEES. The first war was that of 1811. Then came the disastrous campaign of 1823 and 1824, during the Governorship of Sir Charles MacCarthy. Major Ricketts, a member of his staff-one of the very few who survived the fatal battle of Esmacow-has left us a very interesting account, simply written but full of pith and matter. When the Ashantees were marching up to attack Sir Charles they advanced singing and beating a wild alarm of drums and tom-toms, as is their custom. Sir Charles, not to be outdone by noise, ordered his band to strike up "God Save the King." However, the music had no effect on the enemy, and soon both forces were engaged in desperate strife. After a battle of some hours the British allies were without ammunition, and a mistake committed by a commissariat officer, who despatched biscuits instead of ball cartridges, proved fatal for the ailies and their gallant commander. Sir Charles and all his staff, with the exception of Major Ricketts and a Lieutenant Jones, were beheaded, and the heads were carried in triumph to Coomassie, where, it is reported, they are even to this day held in high honor, being decorated with gold bands and jewels.

Sy Tutu Kwamina died soon after the battle of Esmacow, and was succeded by his brother, Sy Okoto.

after the victory of Esmacow the Ashantees advanced upon Cape Coast Castle, when there were but a garrison of about 50 men in the fort. Even the streets of the town were invaded by the enemy, and the slaughter which ensued was terrific. It is calculated that about 20,000 Fantees lost their lives in that campaign, while the miser-

pleasure I feel in writing the following remarks | able state into which the Protectorate | was | bearing arms, every onier owing allegiance, every upon the Ashantee nation:— | plunged is indescribable. It may be said that In the days of Cada Mosto, Pernando Gomez, until 1826 the Ashantees were masters of all the a force of 100,000 men is thus speedily raised. Protectorate up to within a mile of the seacoas forts. The tables were reversed in 1826. The British collected a force at Accra and met the Ashantees at Dundowah. The battle that ensued then was most sanguinary, but nearly at the com-mencement of it the Ashantees were stricken with panic and fied, and a great many of their captains, rather than meet the king, committed sufcide on the field. The Fantees and their allies on this day amply avenged the horrors of 1823 and 1824, and an even balance of losses was thus struck.

The successor of Sy Okoto was a prince called Kwaweda, who departed this life in 1867. Kwaweda invaded the Protectorate in 1840, and waged a bloody and relentless war on the Fantees: but the English were not summoned to take up arms for the latter in this campaign; they simply advised them and supplied them with arms and ammunition. On the death of Kwaweda, the present King Coffee Calcali ascended the throne, in his thirtieth year.

THE KING OF ASHANTEE is said to be an intelligent man, with the appearance of a mulatto, slight but sinewy in figure, hospitable and gracious to strangers. He resides at Coomassie, the capital, which is said to be, by those who have seen it, a populous and well regulated town. The parace of the King is a structure of hewn stones, large and capacious, with great squares, where reviews and assemblages are held. The whole is walled around, having an outer and inner enclosure. The rooms are lofty and commodious, and those occupied by His Majes: y are furnitured with European and native articles. The presents he has been continually receiving diplomatically have assisted in supplying him with unusual luxuries. Pictures adorn the walls; sumptuous sofas are ranged round his walls; thick carpets cover his floors; his tables are loaded with a thousand costly knick-knacks. Next in importance to the Palace among

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS is the Bantammah, which is the Tower or the Louvre of Coomassie, wherein are stored the more precious gifts it has been the good pleasure of the kings of Asaantee to receive from the British, the Dutch and the French governments. It is the treasure house, filled with the ware the kings have gathered from time to time; the Bank, wherein lie the specie and gold dust, ingots and bars of solid gold, and many a chestiull of rings and chains of gold. that go to make up the treasures of a rich and powerful despot like tae Ashantee King. In the Bantammah, side by side with the crown of the kings, is laid the gold decorated cup lashioned out of the skull of the unfortunate Governor of Cape Coast Castle, Sir Charles MacCarthy. It is only on days of state and high festival that this ghastly cup is used. I lancy that if the English take the Bantammah that this State cup will be considered one of the most valuable trophies that could be

The King possesses a numerous harem, like the sable monarch of Dahomey. He is privileged to marry as many as he pleases: for even in Ashantee the King can do no wrong or trespass on any law. I should fear to say how many wives he has married, for we shall probably know the exact number by and by; but he can take his pick out of the noblest, the fairest and best in the land, after which it is certain death for any other man in Ashantee to look on her face, for she is the King's. The harem is jealously guarded in a quarter of the palace overlooking the palace gardens by a body of 150 cunuchs. It must not be supposed, however that the rights of ordinary women are curtailed thus; in the households of all but the King the women are at hierty to stare and be stared at, to talk with any man or be talked with.

The King, with the usual privilege of monarchy, may stay at home during war, while he may command every soul capable of bearing arms to proceed to the war. He has his Prime Ministers, his Com mander-in-Chief, Keeper of the Treasury, Chief of the Eunuchs, Generals of Divisions and Nobles of the Council.

The Prime Ministers, two in number, the most important of his nousehold, manage all public business, and proffer advice to the King upon all matters of vital importance to the State. The Commander-in-Chief is generally some an-

cient warrior, whose deeds in his prime form never-ending subjects of social chat among the old and young. When he assumes this high post he does not venture into the battle any more; his work seems to be limited to portioning the levies to each noble, to keep the army up to a certain standard in numbers, to organizing, and appointing the officers and troops for active service. Next

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF comes another venerable old soldier, whose pos seems to be that of strategician-in-chies, who advice into the ears of the generals about to pro-

Coomassie, is a most important man. He is generally a noble, and a distinguished soldier. The present Keeper is a chief called Aman Kwah Tia, reported to be at present in our front seeking honors in skirmishing with the British allies.

THE GENERALS OF DIVISIONS are generally great and powerful chiefs, who have supplied the King's army with hundreds of their retainers and slaves, and are appointed for their influence. When wide prestige is added to this influence, he seems to lose the simple distinction of a chief and becomes a general. As may be seen from the above, the Ashantee na-

tion is composed of four classes—the monarch, the nobles or feudal chiefs: the free Ashantee veomen, land proprietors, small village chiefs, all free born Ashantees; the slaves taken in war or born in bondage form the fourth class.

THE GREAT NOBLES own vast territories and are lords of thousands of vassels. They may be said to be petty kings, subsidiary to the central government at Cooma Foremost among these, like another Warwick, is the Prince of Iabon, in whose territory is the populous city of Selaga, with a population of 400,000 (?) souls, situate on the upper Volta. This Prince can furnish the King with a force of 20,000 vassals for ms army. He seldom ventures out himself into ac-tive service unless the King of Ashantee proceeds in person to the war.

THE PRINCES OF PURU and Marn-pon are each able to furnish the national army with contingents varying from 5,000 to 10,000 vassals. The Chief of Funamah, between Coomassie and the Prah, enters on service with a force of 1,000 of his own retainers. But there are several large cities beyond Coomassie, both affluent and populous, of which we may know more when we shall have entered Coomassie as conquerors.
THE ASHANTEE ARMY

in the field bear flags for distinctive signals or ensigns of vassalage, but they have no importanze in the eyes of soldiers, save as distinguishing pennants or banners. The loss of any of them involves no disgrace or misfortune. The Chiefs' umbreilas represent in the Ashantee soldiers' eyes what a regimental flag does in a European army. The gorgeous sunshade which an Ashantee chief holds over his head, ornate with vari-colored pieces of silk, rich with its appendages of silver and gold, embodies in an Ashantee's eyes the honor of his chief. The loss of one of these in battle involves disgrace and defeat.

The chiefs are borne from place to place by hammock or chair bearers. The chair which the British captured at Abracampah was a specimen of Ashantee manusacture in that line. to be exceedingly cumbrous, though it was not of great weight. In shape it was exactly like the ody of a light phaeton lifted from its wheels. Eight stout fellows bearing it on their heads, protected by thick pads resting on each bearer's cranium, sufficed to take Assamo Kwantab, the Ashantee general, from camp to camp. The woodwork of the chair was studded with an infinite number of brass tacks, and specimens of what skill in tracery and ornate woodwork of which the Ashantee artisans are capable were visible on the

sides and front of the chair. The King appears in the field only in extremiswhen his presence is necessary to inspire the dagging entiresiasm or devotion of the army to his cause, when discouragement has followed repeated reverses in battle. Then every soul capable of

HIS STATE UMBRELLA is borne over or before him by a chief wherever he moves, the sight of which rouses the interest and zeal of every member of his army. This um-brella costs a small fortune—about \$3,000 or \$4,000. It is made of alternate pieces of crimson and black velvet, white hundreds of gold pendicies form a fringe around it, while a large boss of pure gold surmounts it above. THE DRESS OF THE KING

on such occasions is exceedingly costly. A tunic of crimson velvet covers his body, his loose Moorish pantaloons are made of the same stuff, a broad band of gold encircles his waist, a cap or turban of silk, richly embroidered, covers his head; his weapons are decorated profusely with the THE KING'S REVENUE

is derived, apart from his own private estates, which are vast, from the gold mines. The dust becomes the property of the miners or proprietors, but every nugget, great or small, throughout his dominions, belongs to the King. Whichever person is guilty of reserving any of the King's portion is liable to the death penalty, which is in-

variably carried out. THE ARMS OF THE ASHANTERS consist of long five foot Danish guns (flint locks), though many are also found with blunderbusses.

The cartridge boxes serve as girdles, the leather or wooden cups into which the powder is poured being sewed on a belt, the two ends of which are either tied with a leather thong or buckled in front. The bullets or iron slugs are in small leathern pouch, slung over the shoulder. This pouch, sometimes found on the dead Ashantees, is generally found to contain as miscellaneous a set of articles as may be seen in any Jack Tar's box or bag. Bark thread, bark waste (probably for wadding), iron pins, queer-looking stones, an assortment of dark-colored beans, a stale piece of yam or manioc, a piece of chew-stick, a handful er so of small snail shells and other extraordinary articles represent what an Ashantee's pouch contains on the battle field. Any of your readers who may have seen a Greek brigand's, an Albanian's, a Kurd's or a Bedouin's cartridge box may guess at once what kind of a cartridge box the Ashantees use. and they undoubtedly derived their notions of the utility of such a thing from the trading Tuaregs of Timbuctoo. You need not wonder, then, at the very few severe wounds inflicted upon the English despite the very many splendid opportunities the ambushed Ashantees have had to indict instantaneous death. The powder is thrown loosely into the barrel, and, being often without wadding material, the bullets or stugs of iron, or handfuls of snail shells, or a piece of unsmelted iron ore, are dropped on the loose powder, and the loose charge is thus fired when only a few feet from their fees. Hence we need not wonder that so lew latal wounds have been received by the English.

There is not the least doubt but the Ashantees have improved immensely since they first became a nation. They can now point to

who have worn the crown of Ashantee, who have carried terror and dismay to the hundred nations around, and spread the reputation of the Ashantees far and wide. The certain consciousness of the fact that their Ashantee forefathers were warriors, that their kings were conquerors and that the themselves have not degenerated has imparted dignity of bearing and an air of superiority to the meanest Ashantee soldier. The Ashantee warrior, miserable as he may

appear compared to the gaudily-dressed West India British soldier, is his equal, nay, I may say superior to him, in the battle. The West Indian, confronted with the aimost nude warrior of Ashantee, may, with a serene smile of self-satisfaction, tap his breech-loading Snyder rife and dare his foe to the battle, sure that his weapon, his own superior knowledge of military laws and tactics and the discipline in which h has been trained may carry the day. On the other hand, the Ashantee-full of the traditions of his race, conscious only of the power of his King and that he is the King's warrior even to the death; that, until he saw the British soldier the Ashantee went to the battle only to conquer; that in four compaigns, at least, against the British, the British were worsted; that in the Bautammah, the King's treasure house at Coomassie, there lies a bleached skull of a British governor as a trophy of the Ashantee's might-can tap his cheap Brummagem gun with its old-fashioned flintlock, hi had powder and his cast iron slugs, and, relying on his superior craft in the bush, and with a smile of proud serenity, accept the combat which the bedizened and tasselled negro of the West Indies

Give the Ashantees the same weapon the breech-loading Snyders, with the proper ammunition, with which the allies of the English have been furnished, and even the white troops would find that the Ashantees composed a fee worthy of

their best efforts. HINTS TO THE ENGLISH.

It is a thousand pities that the British governors have not succeeded in winning the confidence of the Ashantees. Yet, who knows but that this war may prove the greatest blessing that could be all the Ashantees? If the English are wise they will deprive their present enemy of their King and attach unto themselves these brave and formidable warriors, and through them open the whole of Central Africa to trade and commerce and the beneficent influences of civilization. The Romans would have been delighted at such an opportunity of extending their power for the benefit of them selves and the world at large. Two thousand Ashantees, under the leadership of an intelligent British officer, would soon extend the power of the English from Cape Coast Castle across the Thogoshi Mountains to Timbuctoo, and from the Mandingo Land to Benin.

THE NEWARK SEWER "IRREGULARITIES."

Contractors Disgorging Over \$7,000-Something That Looked to an Aiderman Like "a Deliberate Fraud." The exposures in the HERALD of the series of

sewer "irregularities" in Newark are beginning to bear wholesome fruit for the taxpayers of that city. Yesterday in the Essex County Court, Messrs, Shanley & Son, contractors, who had constructed the Canal street sewer and been sued by the city to recover money alleged to have been paid them for work never done, throw up the sponge and a formal verdict was rendered against them, the award against them to the city being \$7,332. It seems they had been largely overpaid for rock excavations—paid, in lact, for excavations never made. On Tuesday night in the Common Council the matter came. cavations—paid, in fact, for excavations never made. On Tuesday night in the Common Council the matter came up on a resolution slipped in by City Counsel Francis to the effect that he be authorized to settle with the contractors. Adderman Reynolds thought this was letting the Shanleys off cheap, as the matter looked to him "like a deliberate fraud," one which he thought the contractors must have known all about. After some talk, however, in which "Boss" Stainsby spoke in favor of the resolution, it was passed. The Shanleys alleged that they knew nothing of any irregularity. They had nothing to do with measuring the work, and received payment on the measurements and estimates of the City Surveyor and Inspector. They claim to have been entirely ignorant as to how much work their men really did, and therefore they accepted the figures of the city officials. Meanwhile the sewer was tapped in several places and the discovery made that where there had been paid for over 2,000 feet of rock, at \$3.50 per foot, there had been excavated only about one-third of that amount. This is only one case out of dozens on the "irregular" list.

THE FRENCH CLUB.

The well known French club the "Cercle de l'Harmonie" held its annual dinner last evening at the rooms in Clinton place. This is con rative of the original establishment of the club. After the dinner, which was given in the usual style of the society, speeches were made, in which praise of the club and the glory of the French nation were curiously mingled. All the toasts were rapturously applauded, and one of the pleasantest evenings of the season was passed in one of the merriest moods. The entertainment did not conclude until a late hour.

DEATH FROM A POWDER EXPLOSION.

NEWBURG, Jan. 7, 1874. George Beckford, one of the men injured at the Newburg powder mills, died last night. The other

THE VIRGINIUS.

Public Opinion in Madrid on Grant's Message Meddling with Our Internal Affairs.

MADRID, Dec. 15, 1873. I telegraphed you that the "evening and morning papers here protest haughtliy and indignantly against the tone of President Grant's Message to Congress, saying that the affairs of Cuba or of Spain were none of his business." Desiring to make good my despatch and to allow your readers to judge for themselves, I translate below some of the salient points presented in the principal papers of Madrid on said State document :-

of Madrid on said State document:—

GRANT'S INSULT TO SPAIN.
[Prom the Imparcial.]

* By what right does General Grant allow himself to level his accusations and to fulminate his anathemas at us, and, in a message to the American Congress, call for the overthrow of a party that exists in Cuba and in the Pen usu a? Who is General Grant that he must needs refer in an official document to an "aristocratic and pro-slavery" party in "open hostility to the metro-politan government," a party which, in his view, constitutes a "dangerous element in the continuance of commercial relations between Cuba and Spain?"

constitutes a "dangerous element in the continuance of commercial relations between Cuba and
Spain,"

Whatever the parties that agitate Cuba may be—
whethere pro or anti-slavery, aristocraftle or popular; whether even they be loyal or rebel—these are
questions which Spainards, and they alone, are
competent to resolve; and the sovereignty of
Spain will never suffer any other government to
meddle in matters which belong exclusivery to her
internal affairs and those of her colonial dependencies. The bare fact that the President of the
United States arrogates to himself the power not
only to examine subjects like these, but also to
give a decision on them, is nothing less than
a direct attack on the sovereignty of Spain,
an act against which we raise an energetic protest. The American President calls the capture of
the Virginums a derogation of the sovereignty of
the United States; but he would have been more
consistent, ere he made such an assertion, if he
had respected his international obligations prohibiting the public fitting out and salling of piratical expeditions to maintain the insurrection inCuba. How can a government that clearly manifests such contempt for its international obligations, that speaks with such arrogance of the
sovereignty of the United States on the occasion
of our capturing a filibastering vessel, venture to
attaint the sovereignity of Spain by setting itself
up to judge and pass a verdict on matters which
alone concern ourselvest. And how does the President dare talk about "victims to cruel acts" committed or not committed in another nation, when
the cruel and barbarous executions of the Indians,
so frequently referred to in the American press,
are still ireso in his memory.

[From the Correspondencia de España.]

Grant as a Meddler.

Grant as a Meddler.

[From the Correspondencia de España.]

* * It is unquestionable that General Grant, taking the Virginius matter as a pretext, is guilty of medding with our internal affairs, for which we can concede no right whatever either to him or to any other foreigner.

of medding with our internal affairs, for which we can concede no right whatever either to him or to any other foreigner.

"INSOLENT AND PROVOKING."
[From the Diario Español.]

The insolent and all but provoking language of those paragraphs of the Message which relate to Spanish affairs is brought out in much bolder relief if we contrast it with the mild and temperate conduct of our government in its negotiations with the United States on the Virginius question. Never was a State paper seen before in which anation's chief uses language so unguarded and impertinent, so contemptuous, in fine, of another independent state, worthy at least of some consideration in view of the friendly relations which ostensibly bind the two republies. Can it be that the United States thinks to exercise a kind of protectorate over the Spanish nation when they gratuitously give forth their opinion on matters that belong exclusively to the government and people of Spain? What business is it to the Wasnington government whether there be or be not a conservative and aristocratic party in Spain, opposed to the muddling relorus of another and more advanced party? Are these questions the exclusive-property of the Spanish Cortes, or are they to be decided in an American Congress, that the necessity of hastening forward these matters has come up over there? It does not concern the United States government whether in Spain or in Cuba there exists a party more or less hostile to exaggerated ideas of hierty, or those are domestic matters which we spaniards will treat as we like, and the Yankee citizens are not charged with their solution. * * * We demand from the American Republic the exercise of that same respect for our independence and internal legislation that we, in our turn, have always accorded to them. Cuba is a Spanish province, not an American Cuba is a Spanish province, not an American State, and Spaniards, not Yankees, are competent to legislate there, for our dignity cannot, without the loss of our independence—hitherto respected i

The other papers contain articles in a precisely similar tone to the above, and therefore we do not think it worth while to proceed further in these citations from them.

PENNS YL VANIA.

The Governor's Message-Debt of the State-New Conditions Under the New-Constitution-The Centennial Exposi-

tion Calling on Congress.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 7, 1874. Governor Hartranft's Message was sent to the Legislature to-day. The State debt amounts to \$25,798,821. Amount of bonds in the sinking fund, \$9,200,000; cash in the treasury, \$1,825,151; leaving indeptedness unprovided for, \$14,773,670. During the last year the debt was reduced \$1,504,672. the repeal of taxes the receipts of will be reduced \$1,500,060, while the expenditures will be equal to those of 1873. The Governor urges economy, because under the new constitution the expenditures will be increased for the Legislature, the schools and the judiciary. He calls the attention of the Legislature to the necessity of counting the votes cast in the constitutional election, so that there may be no delay in enabling him to promptly issue the proper proclamation. Upon the present Legislature, he says, devolves the moulding of existing regulations into conformity with the change about to be inaugurated in the fundamental law of the State. He enions upon the people increased vigilance over all legislation, so that attempts at special legislation may be irustrated. In anuding to the Centennial he says:—

"To stamp it as a national enterprise it must receive direct and substantial assistance from the national government. Congress must set its seal of approbation upon the work of the Commission, and manifest not only an interest in the undertaking, but a determination that its proportions and grandeur shall eclipse all preceding expositions. Pennsylvania must also not relax in her efforts to secure success." He congratulates the country upon the peaceful solution of our difficulties will be settled without finging the sword into the scale.

PIGHT FOR A HUSBAND.

The prize for which two women contended in the Court of Quarter Sessions in Jersey City yesterday was an individual named John Boothman, each woman contesting the claim of the other to be his solace and comforter, in season and out of season. John pleaded not guilty to an indictment for bigamy. Then followed what Jobson calls high old swearing. Mary testified that she was married to him six years ago in St. Francis Xavier's church, Sixteenth street, New York, while "Winny" swore Sixteenth street, New York, while "Winny" swore that Father Cauvin performed the matrimonial ceremony, yoked her and John together at Hoboken in August, 1872. John took the stand in his own defence, and frankly admitted that he lived with Mary in New York lor two years and four months as her husband, but was never married to her. He would have been living with her still if she had consented to have a portion of her vocal organs amputated. The jury, after a brief deliberation, sympathized with John and sent him on his way rejoicing. Mary attacked him on leaving the Court with her favorite weapon, and declared she would kill "Winny" if he continued to live with her; but she would be satisfied if he would abandon both the cisimants.

ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY.

Boston, Jan. 7, 1874. A desperate attempt at bank robbery, if not murder, occurred at one o'clock this morning in Abington, Mass. John Floyd, the patrol watchman between the Abington National Bank and the Tack factory, was attacked by four masked men near factory, was attacked by four masked men near the latter building, and after a desperate resistance in which he received two pustol shots, one through the hand and another inflicting a slight wound on his forebead, he was finally bound and gagged. The assailants then started for the bank, half a mile distant. In the mean time Floyd managed to free himself and give an aiarm, when the rumans fied. During the struggle Floyd, using his billy, broke the arm of one of his assailants.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A LADY. Bosron, Jan. 7, 1874.

Mrs. Adeline Badger, wife of Rev. Henry C. Badger, of No. 34 Newbury street, left her residence yesterday, stating that she had business with her bookseller, upon wnom she called and settled an account. Since that time she has not been seen. A note left upon her table leads to the beinef that she intended to commit suicide, and a noticeable depression in her manner for the past two weeks strengthens this belief. Mrs. Badger was the principal of a large private school, a mem-ber elect of the Boston School Committee, and a woman of rare intellect and culture.